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ARGENTINA. In commemoration of the last "Day of the Americas" the municipal government of the City of Buenos Aires, as an homage to the peoples of America, decided to incorporate into the nomenclature of the City the name of the only country in America that does not appear therein: Puerto Rico, as well as of three capital cities of the Continent: Puerto Principe, Tegucigalpa and Managua; and that of two illustrious personages: the Peruvian writer Don Ricardo Palma (1833-1919) and Don Juan Zorrilla de San Martín, the national poet of Uruguay (1855-1931).

This idea has been recommended under several aspects by the First, Second and Third Meetings of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities, wherefore it is a pleasure for us to congratulate the municipal authorities of the City of Buenos Aires for this resolution which tends to tighten the bonds of co-fraternity among the peoples of America.

See: "Carta de Recomendaciones del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios", November, 1954, p. 39.

BRAZIL. This year eleven cities were chosen as finalists, among more than one hundred, which appeared to opt for the prize in the competition called by the magazine "O Cruzeiro" of Rio de Janeiro. It was decided to increase the number of contestants which is ten, in order to admit Araras, included under a special category recently created.

All these cities sent their representatives to present their reports on the progress made in their respective communities during the past year.

In this competition, as our readers will recall, the Point IV Mission of the Program of Technical Assistance of the United States of America and the magazine "O Cruzeiro" cooperated with the Brazilian Public Administration Institute.

The cities that received the award this year and were congratulated by President Juscelino Kubitschek in a ceremony held at the Catete Palace are: Capelhinha (Minas Gerais); Catalão (Goiás); Colatina (Espírito Santo); Paranavaí (Paraná) y Tupa (São Paulo). During the same ceremony the said cities received honorable mentions from the President of the magazine "O Cruzeiro". President Kubistchek liwise congratulated the ten cities that were finalists, as well as the organizers of the competition.

---- By Decree of May 20, 1956 the "Escola de Administração de Emprêsas de São Paulo" (School of Company Management of São Paulo) was created. The origin of this Decree is found in a contract entered into between the President of the Getulio Vargas Foundation and the Director of the Foreign Operations Mission of the Government of the

U.S. of America (USOM) in Brazil, of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, the regional organ of the International Cooperation Administration (ICA).

The School will function under the supervision of a Board consisting of seven members with vote, who shall have alternates in case of absence, and three members without vote. The Board will decide upon the instruction in general to be given and the purposes of the School. The Management and teaching staff will determine the methods and content of the specific courses, but the Board reserves the right to be kept informed in these matters. The official languages for the meetings of the Board are Portuguese and English.

The Funds managed by the Board will consist of the following:
a) Deposits made by the Getulio Vargas Foundation.
b) Deposits made by the National Campaign for Training Personnel on Higher Levels.
c) Income from fees and charges made by the School.
d) Donations to cover the expenses estimated in the annual budget.
e) Donations for special purposes.

CANADA. As we have announced in the "Newsletter from I.M.O." July, 1956, the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities successfully held its XIX Annual Conference at the City of Hamilton.

Resolutions adopted at this Conference, constituting the representative views of Canadian municipal spokesmen, will provide the basis of the Federation's annual submission to the Federal Government. Said resolutions were adopted on the following topics: Crown properties and taxation; Municipal Improvements Assistance Act; Federal-Provincial-Municipal Conference; Exemption from sales tax and municipal purchases; Education costs; Civil Defence; Change of name of Civil Defence; Civil Defence - National Municipal Meeting; Hospital construction grants; Old Age Assistance Act; Protected railway grade crossings; Traffic- Uniformity of control devices; Veterans Land Act - Municipal Voting Rights for Wives of Veterans; Microfilming of municipal records; Flood control - interprovincial rivers and streams; Deserted Wives and Children's Maintenance Acts; National Highway Program; National Health Plan; Compensation for Civil Defence Workers; and, Urban Transit.

With regard to the resolution on"Crown properties and taxation", conference delegates decided that the Federal Government should be requested to amend the Municipal Grants Act to provide for payments in lieu of and equal to full municipal taxation on all Crown property.

In connection with the "Municipal Improvements Assistance Act", delegates agreed that the condition of the money market makes it increasingly difficult for municipalities to finance their capital requirements. As a consequence it was decided that the Federation should "petition the Federal Government to provide funds to municipalities under Provincial government guarantees either through The Municipal Improvements Assistance Act, 1938 or otherwise for the purpose of financing municipal needs."

Delegates agreed also that the Federation should Request the Provincial Governments jointly with the Federal Government to arrange for a Federal-Provincial-Municipal Conference for the express purpose of considering municipal financial problems only.

In like manner it was decided that the Federation should"again call on the Federal Government to relieve the municipalities throughout Canada from the payment of sales tax on all municipal purchases."

Calling attention to the rapidly rising costs of education, Conference delegates adopted a resolution directing that this problem be brought to the attention of the "Provincial governments through the provincial municipal associations with the request that a permanent financial solution be reached which would include consideration of the establishment of municipal standards of school construction and the operation of schools financed through a uniform mill rate levy by municipalities, with the difference to be financed by the provincial governments through grants based on equalized assessments in order that all Canadian children may have equal educational opportunities."

In the resolution on Traffic - Uniformity of control devices, Conference delegates decided that the Federation should endorse, in principle, the publication of a manual on uniform traffic control devices for Canada which is being undertaken jointly by the Canadian Good Roads Association and the Canadian Section of the Institute of Traffic Engineers and other national agencies. This same resolution went on to request that "all governments - provincial and municipal - be asked by the Federation to accept the recommended standards of the Joint Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada, so far as practicable, and to put the standards into practice as fully and as promptly as possible."

In connection with the National Highway Program, Conference delegates passed a resolution urging the Federal and Provincial governments "to institute an over-all comprehensive policy regarding an arterial highway system integrated and coordinated on an inter-provincial and national basis so as to meet the rapidly expanding domestic and tourist requirements for rapid and modern highway facilities interconnecting all parts of the country."

There were also different and interesting activities around the Conference. One of them was a panel discussion on the question "Apathy in Municipal Affairs". The following are extracts from the opinions given by two members of the panel and Professors of the University of Toronto, Messrs. Paul W. Fox and Albert Rose, what gives us an idea of the diversity of views expressed.

In Dr. Fox's opinion, "the public is apathetic. They take local government lightly. They make fun of the confusions which develop when council tries to settle some great multi-million dollar scheme in a few hour's sitting without extensive study and gets entangled in a web of contradictions. Well, no wonder... What alderman, what reeve has got time to put the effort required into the study of complicated technical issues like redevelopment, zoning, traffic control, financing, etc., when he gets nothing for his trouble and has got to earn his living at some other full time job? How can you expect the public to take you seriously if you do not take yourselves seriously enough to demand a decent wage for what you are expected to do? "... I see nothing wrong in honest, efficient, hard working, full time local government representatives expecting to be well paid, and I mean well paid: something like $25,000 for mayors in larger cities, $15,000 for controllers if you have them, and $10,000 to $12,000 for aldermen. I argue it would be more economical in the long run to pay more and get better men with more time. Please don't misunderstand me. I am not suggesting soft sinecures. If you pay a man $15,000 or $25,000 a year, you can expect him to do a good job. If he doesn't, throw him out - as you would in business- and get some one who will ... And you won't have much trouble if you offer $25,000."

Dr. Albert Rose in his turn said: "In my view it is a gross over-simplification to argue that citizens are generally apathetic to municipal affairs. Rather there is reason for strong suspicion that the apathy is not toward municipal affairs as such, but to municipal politicians as such, that is, to the actions of those persons who come forward as candidates and are elected to public office ..."

"It is entirely conceivable that many citizens are no longer convinced that it is of much importance to vote in municipal elections. The possible reasons for this attitude are probably very numerous. It is one view that the politicians themselves are responsible for much of this feeling of apathy. The apathy in short is directed to municipal politicians rather than to municipal affairs. Why?"

"At the head of the list may be the feeling that the elected representatives are not really interested in the basic needs of all citizens ... Perhaps a good many citizens wonder whether it matters whom we elect. Our cities will continue to be unplanned for the most part. Our cities and towns will continue to decay. Our slums will expand. Our taxes will remain high and continue to increase, not because we have spent vast sums on housing and slum clearance, but partly and precisely because we have not."

"The Federal and provincial governments in Canada have wisely left the initiative in urban renewal to our municipal governments. Where is the initiative? Was this simply a way of ensuring that little or nothing would be done? In our municipal councils are found the most vitriolic opponents of subsidies, particularly subsidized housing. Yet the very men and women who find housing subsidies anathema will use the power of expropriation to assit private enterprise in large scale projects on the assumption that higher assessment and higher taxes will result."

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The Honorable William Hawrelak, Mayor of Edmonton, was elected President of the Federation for the period 1956-57.

COSTA RICA. From an interesting monograph edited by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council of the Organization of American States, prepared by Guillermo Gonzalez Truque, we have taken the data given below on the "Housing Cooperative of Santa Eduvigis", a limited organization established in San Jose.

It was founded in May, 1947 by a group of middle class people who organized themselves into a Society having that name for the purpose of assisting in the solution of the problem of housing in Costa Rica, in addition to assisting persons in the solution of other economic, social and cultural problems. Therefore a great variety of subjects forms the system, including special credits, consumption, transportation of persons and recreation. The Society operates in the form of a savings and loan association, of an open type in which persons bind themselves to save one hundred Colons per month (the quotation of the Colon fluctuates around 41 to 42 cents per dollar), during the waiting period for the construction of their dwelling. Income is on an absolutely free basis as well as the drawing of the funds therefrom, thus carrying out the principle of cooperation in the strictest way. The precedence of the members is established according to their seniority, a member being able to withdraw his funds at any time, always with twenty days in advance notice. Requests for withdrawals shall be attended to in the order in which they are receivec but the return of the funds shall not be made until the liquidation of the respective year has been made by the General Assembly. The same procedure will be followed in the return of shares to members who have been expelled from the Society.

When the society was organized it did so with a variable initial capital of one thousand Colones divided into twenty shares of fifty Colones each, and with limited liability. The capital was formed by: a) shares fully paid up which were registered and indivisible and transferable only with the authorization of the Board of Directors; b) the accumulated surplus, and c) the donations received.

Any natural or juridical person capable of acquiring rights and assuming obligations may be a member and those that are incapacitated, under the responsibility of

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The Honorable William Hawrelak, Mayor of Edmonton, was elected President of the Federation for the period 1950-51.

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Any natural or juridical person capable of acquiring rights and assuming obligations may be a member of those that are incapacitated, under the responsibility of

their legal representatives. Members are of three classes: regular, semi-regular and investors.

Any difficulties that arise between the members and the society must be submitted to a Board of Arbitration made up of a delegate of the Department of Labor, a delegate of the Cooperative and a representative of the claimant member.

Managed by a Board of Directors its highest body is the meeting of the stockholders in a General Assembly, and in order to comply with the provisions of the Law of Cooperatives, it has a Vigilance Committee.

According to its Manager, Lic. Guillermo López Truque, up to now the achievements of "Cooperativa de Habitación Santa Eduvigis, R.L." are insignificants even for modest countries but incredible having in mind the circumstances and environment in which said achievements has taken place.

COLOMBIA. Don Fernando Guillén Martínez, essay writer and critic of art and literature, who founded the magazine "Economía Colombiana", in a very interesting article published by "Americas" of the Pan American Union, in May, 1956, advocates a return to local self-government.

According to Guillén Martínez the thing that most deeply impresses nearly every present-day visitor to Ibero-America is the enormous growth of the capital cities as opposed to the debility of the small villages and towns. "If we carefully examine the area's political, social, cultural, and economic problems, we find that almost all are basically due to this crisis of the small community and the absence of civic spirit. Grandiose government plans or simple machines and money are not going to correct this situation."

"Today it is recognized that, in general, the best way of stimulating improvement in the towns' standard of living is to interest individuals and families in participating in the management of community affairs -in things like that library problem, improving sanitary conditions, founding producers' or consumers' cooperatives, or financing a playground. The more such works are the product of local public interest, the better. And that, with some variations because the circumstances of time and place, was the belief of the Ibericans up to the middle of the XV Century.

Immediately he makes reference to the work of Dr. Caroline F. Ware "Organización de la Comunidad para el Bienestar Social", published by the Pan American Union in 1954, in which the author pointing out the way in which the individual relates himself to his social environment, wrote: "To a large extent it depends on how the organizations and institutions (of the whole community) treat the citizen. If they are negligent and fail to give the people encouragement or opportunity to identify themselves with the community at large and to participate in a responsible way, it cannot be expected that the individual will develop an active attitude or a positive concept of his own role."

He makes reference to the work done by economists and sociologists to restore the vitality of the small community and revive the spirit of local self-government in Latin America. "But", he says "it is seldom remembered that there is a rich tradition to draw on in contemporary social planning: that of the municipalities the first Portuguese and Spanish colonists carried to the New World, based on age-old political institutions. Those municipalities were a vital core of the Latin American nations, and although their civilizing influence has been forgotten for a while, or even wiped out, the future of the Hemisphere may depend on their being restored and improved with the help of modern social science."

He makes history and points out that up to the moment America was discovered,the only significant political experience the masters of the Peninsula had had was in the municipal government of the cities and remembers that it was in 1520 as the conquest of Mexico began, that the champions of the privileges granted to the towns and cities rebelled unsuccessfully in Castile in the famous "War of the Communities", with the result that royal power put and end to the municipalities' autonomy. "Insufficient importance has been given to this coincidence of dates between the beginning of Spanish and Portuguese colonization in the Americas and the overthrow of the municipalities on the Peninsula. Nevertheless, it is so significant that by itself it can explain the innermost spirit of Latin American life./

"When historians ask in astonishment how a handful of conquistadors and colonists managed to organize towns throughout the length and breadth of a continent within little more than a hundred years and to recast the heterogeneous population into a single social body, they must look for the answer in the energy of these municipal communities."

"The colonization of Latin America did not grow like an oil blot, spreading progressively across a continent, as happened in the United States. Rather, it was a simultaneous emergence of municipalities and city councils, virtually isolated from each other but incredibly similar in their communal strength. Everywhere (despite the defects of the cabildos, many of which were taken over by the rich and the nobles) the municipalities built active and wealthy communities of skilled carftsmen, veteran officers, learned jurists, and zealous defenders of self-government. From 1500 to 1800 the municipality meant local autonomy for the common benefit, civic responsibility for the inhabitants, and continous progress. Universities, cathedrals, markets, hand industries, public roads and bridges, schools for Indians, and new colonization of the adjacent territories -all came within its scope. The residents were directly responsible for all these things, and they managed them with surprising skill and wisdom."

"From California to Tierra del Fuego, the colonies were governed essentially through the municipal political forms, and they concentrated their growing autonomous strength in the cabildos while absorbing the varied human elements into a new race, the mestizo."

He quotes the wellkown Argentinian Juan Bautista Alberdi, who declared: "Before the declaration of the Republic, the sovereignty of the people existed in South America, in fact and in principle, in the municipal system Spain gave us. Policy and administration were separated: policy was in the hands of the government, administration was up to the individual town."

The author continues: "It is often said, even in Latin America itself, that the colonial period was a dark era of brutality and despotic backwardness. But the proponents of this view fail to realize that if that were the case no one could explain how peoples with no sense of sovereignty at all, without a democratic tradition, and

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See Final Act of the VI Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities, Recommendation No. 9, In The Inter-American Municipal Review, Vol. VII, No. 1 July-September, 1956, in reference to the propitiation of acts in homage to the illustrious Panamanians, Don José de Antequera y Castro and Don Fernando Mompox de Zayas, heads of the historical movement known as "Revolution of the Communes" in this part of America, which anticipated by more than half a century the Declaration of the Rights of Man proclaimed by the French Revolution in 1790 providing that the rights of the people and their will was above the jurisdiction of the sovereign.

submerged in the lethargy of slavery, could have rebelled against the mother country, with such impressive strength and simultaneity, in order to form independent nations.

"The historical and sociological truth was just the opposite. What happened was that the municipal tradition of the Iberian people, passed on to the mestizo in America, created a violent consciousness of self-government that offered ever-increasing resistance to the centralist and despotic intentions of the Crown. From the beginning of the colonial period there were clashes between the elected municipal officers (mayors, judges, and aldermen) and the representatives of the Viceroys and Peninsular authority. The Spanish and Portuguese Kings tried to suppress this democratic and rebellious municipal tradition, with mounting force, but they only succeeded in producing the tremendous explosion of cabildos that lost them their Empire of the Indies at the beginning of the XIX Century."

Guillén Martínez continues: "In a strange paradox, the political leaders of newly independent Latin America, who were profoundly influenced by the French doctrines about the State, forgot this municipal tradition in which their countries had found the strength to achieve the autonomy. After 1830, the republican regimes of Latin America fell into the same administrative errors committed by the Spanish kings of the Austrian and Bourbon dynasties, from Charles V to Ferdinand VII. A Stanford University history professor, John J. Johnson, described the process in these terms: "The right to name their own representatives was given to the people when independence was won. It was a great victory for the municipalities. But it was short-lived. The Spanish Crown's pernicious policy of interfering in every level of government was, after the winning of freedom, adopted by the political groups which soon emerged. The municipalities have not been permitted to direct their attention to their own problems. National parties have consistently determined the outcome of purely municipal issues."

The author ends his essay with the following paragraphs: "It can safely be said that the majority of the political, social, and cultural problems Latin America has faced during the period of national independence stem from the maintenance and spread of this error. Our sociologists and political theorists have not drawn a sufficiently clear distinction between what properly constitutes political government and what is administrative work, to borrow Alberdi's words."

"The time seems ripe to try to correct this error. As I said at the start, social and economic planners agree that the best system for solving Latin America's problems of social, cultural, and human welfare is by stimulating selfhelp in the small community and promoting the civic spirit of the people everywhere. We have seen how this same idea, expressed through the municipality and the cabildo, was capable of absorbing three races in the colonization of America, of creating nineteen nations, and of winning liberty for a population that today numbers more than 150,000,000. Then why not link the new effort for community development with that rich colonial tradition?

"This could lead us to a broad new body of knowledge in the political, economic, and social fields. This reencounter with the past -a past that has often been ignored, misinterpreted, or scorned, but that has remained alive, though latent, in the spirit and civic instinct of the people- may be the key to the future grandeur of a large part of the New World."

"The Latin American city and town were founded with the idea of being "a great theater of the world", in which each man would find a way to participate actively. It is time for the curtain to rise on its second act, perhaps the most important of all, in which we will behold the dramatic rebirth of a great culture, in peace and freedom."

CUBA. From the 12th to the 18th of December 1956 The First National Planning Congress, called by the National Association of Architects on the initiative of the Provincial Association of Havana was held with a large attendance.

As shown by the Regulations of this Congress its purposes were:

a) To state and clearly reaffirm the fundamental principles of planning.
b) To study the contributions of the different sciences that participate in planning.
c) To analyze the most proper methods for the achievement of an effective planning, starting from the principle of teamwork.

The Agenda was the following:

I. Planning in Cuba: National, regional and local process.

a) Teaching;
b) Divulgation;
c) Teamwork;
d) The participation of the citizens in the process of planning.

II. Problems of the development of the country and of urban and rural communities:

a) Housing;
b) Labor;
c) Education, recreation and health;
d) Communications.

III. Legislation on Planning:

a) The need of organizing the laws, ordinances and regulations for the purpose of providing for the basic principles of planning.

IV. Subjects at random.

We are inserting herein the conclusions more directly applicable to municipalities adopted among others by said Congress.

A Declaration to the effect that: "Integrated Planning is a continous and coordinated process that takes in all the aspects of human development; requires the contribution of all sciences and arts and the knowledgable support of the citizens, and is the most effective and balanced system for governments to base their action in the achievement of the purposes of general wellbeing."

"Every organization engaged in planning before devoting its activities to the study and preparation of specific projects, should contemplate the national panorama in all its aspects and start its work by establishing a program of priorities based on the degree of importance, priority and urgency of the requirements and problems that must be attended to."

"Every organization engaged in planning should place its projects of general interest before an orderly public hearing prior to placing them in the hands of the government."

A Recommendation to the effect that "That planning organizations act

close to the higher centers of learning in order that: a) in all curriculums of the different professions there be included subjects that relate them to the principles, ambit and process of planning; b) that graduate courses be prepared in the different professions and arts on "Integrated Planning"."

"That the planning organizations act close to the centers of learning in a constant and adequate manner for the purpose of having practical methods and procedures used that create in the students, from childhood, a constructive conscience and the habit of taking an interest in matters relative to the community welfare, in a way that will develop a natural disposition of civic action and initiative."

"That the planning organizations act in a direct manner to stimulate, through the most effective methods that may be used, the creation and maintenance of civic associations, awakening in the citizens the spirit of cooperation and emphasizing, through all means possible, the value and importance of their essential and primary collaboration for the moving and achievement of objectives of general wellbeing."

"That the planning organizations act directly to have the schools and professional associations and the labor unions undertake educational work among their members with regard to the process and convenience of Integrated Planning which tends to obtain a clime of understanding and sympathy and a spontaneous contribution thereto."

A Declaration to the effect that "The planning organizations should endeavor to seek administrative decentralization and the strengthening of the municipalities as the essential basis of good government."

"That the planning organizations are in need of the broadest and closest cooperation of the other governmental agencies for the purpose effectively to carry on their functions with the coordination required for the achievement of their objectives." /

A Declaration to the effect that: "That it is necessary to continue holding with periodicity regular Planning Congresses which shall be called by an Organizing Committee made up by representatives of the different professions and specialists who take part in planning fundamentally; or, in a rotative manner, by the institutions of professionals best qualified for the organization and holding of said events."

"That these congresses should be held not only for an interchange of opinions on the subject of planning from a public standpoint and to reach the best coordination of opinions, but to assure more and more that the process of planning in our country be truly the uninterrupted action of all the governments until we reach the stage of being assured that the policy of lack of foresight, improvisation and demagogery in our constructive activities and in the economic and social development of the country has ceased forever."

"That these Congresses should be held, furthermore, to promote in the most efficient manner the formation of a correct mind on planning by governments, citizens and in all the essential activities of the nation."

/ The foregoing declarations and recommendations were adopted on the basis of a Paper presented by Dr. Carlos M. Morán, Secretary General of the Inter-American Municipal Organization.

"That in considering teaching or education on planning we must recognize that it will not suffice to educate only one of the basic factors mentioned: citizens, technicians and government, who intervene in the process of planning, but to do it in the following manner:

1. By educating the citizens who are to benefit thereby.
2. By the formation of specialized technicians who will recommend and practice planning.
3. By advising the governments or authorities that are to put it into effect.

With regard to Urban Planning, this First Congress made the following Declaration of Principles: "The growth of the cities should always be based and related on and to the economic development thereof, as a part of a given region, in such a way as to reach a balance between the urban-rural development in accord with the actual possibilities of the region. Therefore, the following urgent measures are recommended:

"1. The urgent need of zoning and subdivision ordinances and the strict fulfilment thereof.

"2. A control of the anarchic growth of cities by means of plans which will regulate their extension and the density of population in accord with the possibilities of the public services and the physical means for the purpose of conserving their unity.

"3. The possibility of developing neighborhood units, satelite cities, within a general urbanization plan surrounded to the extent possible by green areas; as well as large city centers and industrial zones. Through these measures the creation of a park system will be facilitated, this being a factor of the beauty and health of the cities.

"4. To control the height of buildings and the use thereof, specially in streets or communication routes already congested due to intense traffic and by the parking of vehicles.

"5. To offset the vertical growth of cities by means of open spaces surrounding large buildings of large capacity with gardens in proportion to their height, which will allow proper ventilation and the admission of sunlight in the buildings.

"6. To endeavor to destine the lands belonging to the State, provinces or municipalities, as well as those resulting from the tearing down of different installations (railroads, ports, industries, etc.) into plazas, athletic fields and all kinds of open spaces and green areas.

"7. To prevent the use of lands set aside for plazas and parks for the construction of buildings.

"8. The possibility of urgently urbanizing seashore zones and the banks of rivers and lakes by the construction of broad avenues with areas of recreation and spaces for the parking of vehicles.

"9. The use of green areas as an element for isolating zones used for different purposes.

"10. The study of the rehabilitation of zones."

"To Recommend to the National Planning Board, to the municipalities and all organizations that take part in the mapping, approval and development of new urbanizations, that minimum conditions be established for such projects for the purpose of preventing physical, economic and social problems that may arise in the future."

"To the proper authorities that pursuant to a study of the conditions in the existing zoning (in an attempt at rehabilitation thereof) and of the new zones that are planned, adequate zoning be established by fixing the percentages of free areas in line with the density of said zones and that the discovered area be fixed by the enunciated study of the planning thereof."

With regard to traffic it resolved to recommend that "in considering the urgent solution of the problem of lack of green zones, recreational zones, traffic and parking, the Congress declares that the characteristics of "old Havana" and its archeological riches should be conserved by restoring some of the old plazas and small squares under the protection of the laws in force. The maintenance of the natural beauty of Central Park and the Prado Boulevard should be considered.

"That in the construction ordinances of pilot plans that may be made, the protection and comfort of the pedestrian should be considered by including:
a) protection on streets and in their different activities in the cities;
b) the rigorousness of the climate;
c) a traffic organization in general;
d) diseases and accidents;
e) the beauty and element of improvement and protection in the environment;
f) the conservation of the few existing green areas by contributing to the maintenance of shaded areas, the creation of functional lines of trees on the avenues, parks and zones of expansion."

"To declare: that it is necessary to enact a law for urban regulation that will include among others, sanitary and construction regulations until such time as the local master plans are put into effect after a study thereof by the National Planning Board which will set the bases and minimum rules which will immediately become national in character.

"That it is necessary to grant to natural and juridical persons the right to take action to prevent the construction of new buildings as provided in the Law of Civil Procedure, in cases of private constructions that are made without fulfilling the legal provisions in force at the time of their construction, pursuant to the posting of a bond in a sufficient amount to cover damages, expenses and costs that may be incurred as a result of such action.

"That the Congress believes that the preparation of a National Property Census (Cadastre) is an evident need, the same to be made by an eminently technical autonomous organization apart from political interests in which shall be represented professional associations and organizations allied to census problems.

"That until such time as the national property census (cadastre) is taken it is absolutely essential for the municipalities of the nation to undertake or continue as soon as possible the study of their topographical, planimetrical, urban and rural maps, which shall serve as a fiscal census for the checking of the land tax on real property.

"That to that end, there be included in the municipal budgets a proper chapter that will provide for the maintenance of Technical Commissions provided by the Cuban Institute of Cartography and Census, which commissions working as a team shall carry on said work and also make a scientific appraisal of all real property, urban as well as rural, in order to include them in the municipal planimetrical maps, thus ratifying or correcting the volume of taxes in each case, within a strict application of justice, a task that should be continued in the future.

"That this contribution be taken into account by the National Planning Board and by the Executive Power of the Nation in order that, in those cases in which this work cannot be handled by the municipalities, it be handled directly by the Cuban Institute of Cartography and Census with financial assistance by the State."

The following Recommendation was made: "That a Permanent Commission be appointed, to be a live organ made up of representatives of all the organizations participating herein, in order that a relation of contacts be established, to maintain the resolutions adopted by this Congress, to maintain social relations; organize conferences, symposiums, etc."

GUATEMALA. It is expected that by January 1, 1957 the Institute of Municipal Development into which the Department of Municipal Credit is to be changed will begin to function autonomously. This was told us in a visit made to our offices during the beginning of December by Mr. Guillermo Lopez Rodriguez, Chief of the Department of Municipal Credit of the City of Guatemala.

Created by a Decree of July 5, 1955 the Municipal Credit Department began to operate on the 11th of the same month and year for the purpose of providing the municipalities of the republic with its technical advice and adequate financial assistance for the rapid and proper construction of their works.

Mr. Lopez Rodriguez enthusiastically told us how, since its foundation to November 15, 1956, the Municipal Credit Department had made loans to municipalities in a total amount of 563, 325.07 Quetzals, which money has been used in the construction of schools, provision of drinking water, the construction of junk yards, drainage systems; the purchase of buildings, the repairing of streets, the construction of municipal buildings; the purchase of property; the purchase of electric plants; the construction of markets; the purchase of pumping systems for waterworks; the construction of bridges the repairing of municipal buildings and many other works.

"As may be noted"-said Mr. Lopez Rodriguez-"the municipalities of Guatemala are receiving many benefits. In the first place, for the construction of many works that produce revenue, the municipalities can apply to the Department for a loan which is granted them with a minimum of delay following the time that is absolutely necessary to determine the need and convenience of the work or project they wish to undertake, to draw up the plans thereof and to make an estimate of the cost, look into the economic and financial capacity of the municipality that is to receive the loan, to obtain the authorization that must be given by the Ministry of the Interior in order that the loan may be contracted and to submit the transaction to the Board of Directors. At the present time, in almost all cases, the relations between the municipality that makes the application and the Department are direct. Under the law it is not necessary for them to handle or take any steps through the Government of the Department, the Ministry of the Interior or the Ministry of Communications and Public Works."

With regard to the services of technical assistance, this up to the present has been limited to the planning, structural and financial, of the works, but it has also extended to matters regarding municipal finances, the Department having intervened in the study of the tax plans of some municipalities, not only at their request but because it was requested to do so by technical officials of the Ministry of Economy wherein some of the applications of some municipalities have been processed.

In next issue of the "Inter-American Municipal Review" there will be an article regarding this organization which exalts our sister Republic of Guatemala.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Public Administration Clearing House announces that it is transferring to Public

Administration Service, one of the organizations lodged by it, its responsibility for the operation of the center at 1313 East, 60th Street, Chicago, Ill., known as "1313" Group, as of December 31, 1956.

Thanks to the interest and initiative of PACH the Pan-American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, General Secretariat of the Inter-American Municipal Organization, created by Resolution No. 70 of the First Pan-American Congress of Municipalities held in the City of Havana in 1938, met in the City of Chicago in 1939. Mr. Louis Brownlow, at that time Director of the Centre, extended the invitation, including traveling expenses, accommodation for most of the members of the Commission, who met at the headquarters of the "1313" Group and constituted the organization, adopting its Statutes and starting the work, in order to compliment the Resolution of the VI Conference of American States and the Recommendations of said First Congress.

Since that date, the Inter-American Municipal Organization (IMO) has always count on the moral and material support of Public Administration Clearing House, whose Directors in succession Louis Brownlow and Herbert Emmerich have not only payed attention to the development of the Organization but contributed with their advise as members of its Executive Committee, in representation of the American Committee for International Municipal Cooperation.

PACH founded at the end of 1930 has completed its 26th years as a corporation not-for-profit in the State of Illinois. Its central operations were financed with the aid of grants from the Spelman Fund of New York, Inc., which dissolved in 1948 after making its final grants. The Clearing House itself was not endowed and on the expiration of its long-term support grants concluded that its developmental phase was completed and determined to go into a period of orderly liquidation and transfer its responsibilities for the management of the "1313" Center to the Public Administration Service, in whose Board of Trustees are represented the 14 organizations of public officials and agencies, supplemented by nine affiliated ones headquartered at the "1313".

Each association has a voice at the Board of Trustees and will contribute for support of the common services and facilities.

So Public Administration Service will continue to pursue its growing program of service to governmental agencies in the fields of surveys, installations, research, and publications.

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The sources of information of our publications can be consulted in the specialized library of the CPCI where it is sent by several organizations and private individuals.